

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-15 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 AID-20 SS-15 AGR-20 DRC-01

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R 110832Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1524

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

US MISSION GENEVA 645

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 8831

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PK

SUBJ: NARCOTICS: RADIO PAKISTAN INTERVIEW WITH ORAKZAI

1. PAKISTAN TIMES OCT. 10 GAVE LENGTHY ACCOUNT OF INTERVIEW WITH CHAIRMAN ORAKZAI OF PAKISTAN NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD (PNCB) BROADCAST BY RADIO PAKISTAN. ORAKZAI WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IN ADDITION TO RIGOROUS PUNISHMENT FOR NARCOTICS OFFENDERS, GOP PROPOSED TO INTRODUCE MEDICAL TREATMENT SCHEME THROUGH "GRADE ONE" CLINICS TO BE SET UP IN LARGE CITIES AND "GRADE TWO AND THREE" CLINICS AT ALL DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS. HE WARNED THAT USE OF DANGEROUS SYNTHETIC DRUGS SUCH AS PETHADINE WAS INCREASING AND SAID THAT EFFORTS WERE BEING MADE TO CONTROL IMPORT OF SUCH DRUGS.

2. ON ENFORCEMENT, ORAKZAI REPORTEDLY STATED THAT CHANGES WERE REQUIRED IN EXISTING LAWS AND THAT GOP HAD APPOINTED "TEAM" OF EXPERIENCED OFFICERS TO PROPOSE
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CHANGES. PRESENT PENALTIES WERE TOO LENIENT, AND IN

FUTURE NARCOTICS SMUGGLING WOULD BE MADE NONBAILABLE OFFENSE. IT WAS ALSO PROPOSED THAT TRAFFICKERS SHOULD NOT ONLY BE FINED, BUT THEIR ENTIRE PROPERTY CONFISCATED.

3. ORAKZAI SAID THAT GOP WAS TAKING STEPS TO PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD TO POPPY CULTIVATORS AS IN TURKEY. HE REPORTED THAT NWFP DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER AND TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WERE PREPARING SCHEMES TO ASSIST FARMERS WHOSE LIVELIHOOD WAS DEPENDENT ON OPIUM. HE WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT NO ONE WOULD BE PERMITTED TO CULTIVATE OPIUM WITHOUT A GOVERNMENT LICENSE AND THAT ISSUANCE OF LICENSES WOULD BE RESTRICTED SO AS TO LIMIT PRODUCTION TO THAT AMOUNT CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO MEET PAKISTAN'S MEDICINAL REQUIREMENTS.

4. COMMENT. PAKISTAN TIMES ACCOUNT REPORTED ABOVE IS MOST DETAILED PUBLIC STATEMENT WE HAVE SEEN IN RECENT MONTHS OF PNCB PROGRAM AND PLANS. IT IS EXAMPLE OF GENERAL INCREASE IN PUBLICITY GIVEN BY PAK MEDIA TO PNCB AND NARCOTICS CONTROL IN PAST SIX WEEKS. REPORTS OF SEIZURES OF HASHISH AND OPIUM HAVE BEEN APPEARING IN THE PRESS SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK, AND RECENT PRESENTATION OF REWARD BY ORAKZAI TO WEST PAKISTAN RANGERS FOR OPIUM SEIZURE WAS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE. IN ADDITION ORAKZAI'S DISCUSSIONS WITH RECENT VISITORS SUCH AS DAVIES OF UNFDAC, WARNER OF DEA AND PECK OF NEA/PAB HAVE RECEIVED MENTION IN PRESS. ORAKZAI'S STATEMENT THAT UNLICENSED PRODUCTION WILL NO LONGER BE PERMITTED AND THAT LICENSING IS TO BE RESTRICTED IS PARTICULARLY TIMELY IN VIEW OF THE OPENING OF THE POPPY GROWING SEASON WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH.
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